

January 2016

Dear Fellows and Emeritus Fellows of the Collegium Ramazzini,

Happy New Year! This email contains a number of announcements from the General Secretariat. If you have a message to share with the membership, send to [Kathryn Knowles](#). Announcements received by 5 February will be included in next month's round-up.

1. Save the Date for Ramazzini Days 2016

October 28-30 (arrivals October 27, departures October 30/31)

Per the request of many Fellows, the Executive Council has voted to maintain the 3-day format for Ramazzini Days. Meeting participants are invited to arrive in Bologna (or directly in Carpi) on Thursday 27 October. The scientific sessions will begin on Friday morning and end at lunchtime on Sunday. The Council of Fellows session will be held on Saturday morning. Online registration for the event will open in July as always. Event-related questions may be directed to Conference Manager [Federica Scagliarini](#).

2. Proposals for scientific sessions 2016

The Priority Topics Committee invites Fellows to submit preliminary proposals for Ramazzini Days sessions now! Proposals for multi-speaker panels should be submitted by **1 February**. Individual abstracts for the Work of the Fellows sessions will be due **1 April**. Download the [template](#) for proposals together with [guidelines and examples](#) (ignore deadlines relative to 2015). Questions may be directed to Committee Chair [Melissa McDiarmid](#).

3. End-of-year activities

a. Publication of 18th statement and related commentaries

Thanks to the collective efforts of many Fellows, we are pleased to report that the 18th statement of the Collegium Ramazzini on [The Global Health Dimensions of Asbestos and Asbestos-Related Diseases](#) and the two special issue commentaries on the [2014 Helsinki Consensus Report on Asbestos](#) and the [Causation of Malignant Mesothelioma](#) are in the process of publication in the following international journals: American Journal of Industrial Medicine, Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health, Journal of Occupational Health (Japan), and the European Journal of Oncology, among others. Special thanks are due to Erica Tommasini of the Ramazzini Institute for her excellent work in reformatting the references to meet so many different guidelines.

b. Training sessions and conferences

[A short report on CR activities in Dhaka, Bangladesh](#) in November 2015 may be consulted on the homepage of the CR website. Thank you to Fellow Denny Dobbin for sharing the information.

4. New CR Statement working groups

Formal working groups were formed during Ramazzini Days 2015 to develop new CR statements on 1) Silica; 2) COPD and particulate exposure; and 3) Occupational cancer. Interested Fellows are invited to contact Working Group Chairs [Christine Oliver](#) (Silica), [Laura Welch](#) (COPD) and [Jukka Takala](#) (Occupational Cancer) to contribute.

5. Follow-up related to 17th statement

In 2015 the Collegium Ramazzini responded to the claim by Tomasetti and Vogelstein that 65% of cancers are due to “bad luck” with its 17th statement entitled Most Types Of Cancer Are Not Due To Bad Luck. New research published in Nature 529, 43–47 (07 January 2016) suggests that “environmental exposures, lifestyle choices and other factors that could be changed or avoided account for between 70% and 90% of the gene mutations that make cancerous tumors progress.” Thanks to Emeritus Fellow Danny Teitelbaum for passing along the citation.

6. Member announcements

Fellow William Au invites English-speaking clinicians to consider teaching at the Shantou University Medical College, China for three or more months per year. Interested Fellows are invited to contact him via email.

Kind regards from Bologna,

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